

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend Claims 1-11, 23-30, and 65-79, and add new Claims 80-84, all as follows. No Claims are newly canceled.

1(currently amended). A bundle of pre-marked framing lumber product, comprising:

- (a) a plurality of pre-marked elongate pieces of lumber operative to assist in layout and assembly of a wall, wherein such wall comprises a bottom plate and a top plate, and a plurality of dimension studs extending between the bottom plate and the top plate at one or more of a limited number of pre-determined stud spacings along the bottom plate and the top plate, wherein respective ones of pre-marked said elongate pieces of lumber are operative for use in the bottom plate and/or the top plate, each said respective pre-marked elongate piece of lumber having a first end and a second end, and a length therebetween, a front surface (10F) and a back surface (10B), opposing sides (10L, 10R) extending between the front and back surfaces along the length thereof, and a thickness dimensions (\mp) between the front surface (10F) and the back surface (10B), and between opposing sides thereof;
- (b) a plurality of stud locator markings (12), reflecting application of the markings by at least one of a marking machine or a lumber-modifying process, not by a hand-held marker, the stud locator markings being spaced from each other along the lengths of said pre-marked elongate pieces of lumber, and disposed directly on the front surfaces (10F) of said pre-marked pieces of lumber, each said stud locator marking having a leading edge and a trailing edge, and defining a position for placement, on the respective front surface (10F), of an end of a stud dimension lumber piece having opposing front (22F) and back (22B) stud surfaces which face along the length of said pre-marked elongate

piece of lumber, and a thickness dimension therebetween, to be joined to the respective said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber, the respective said stud locator markings ~~being disposed~~ on the front surface (10F) of said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber, ~~and~~ indicating where the front (22F) and back (22B) surfaces of respective stud lumber pieces are to intersect the respective front surface (10F) of said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber; and

- (c) at least one strap (18) securing said plurality of pre-marked elongate pieces of lumber together as said bundle,

the stud locator markings (12) on a respective said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber being spaced from each other along the length of said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber by at least one of the limited number of pre-determined stud spacings, respective said stud locator markings comprising a leading edge and a trailing edge, wherein the leading edge and the trailing edge are displaced from each other by approximately a standard thickness of such stud lumber piece, said stud locator markings being visually conspicuous on the front surface (10F) of said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber so as to quickly catch the viewer's eye.

2(currently amended). A bundle of pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 1, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 8 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

3(currently amended). A bundle of pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 1, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 16 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

4(currently amended). A bundle of pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 1, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 24 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

5(currently amended). A bundle of pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 1, variations in spacing between said stud locator markings on a respective said pre-marked framing lumber product, and from unit of product to unit of product, being consistently no more than .13 inch leading edge to leading edge.

6(currently amended). A bundle of pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 1, including sets of 2 side-by-side stud locator marks (14, 16) ~~markings~~ arrayed along the lengths of respective units of said pre-marked framing lumber product.

7(currently amended). A bundle of pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 1, respective units of said pre-marked framing lumber product being substantially devoid of any location marking indicators away from the stud locator markings.

8(currently amended). A bundle of pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 2-4, respective units of said pre-marked framing lumber product being substantially devoid of any location marking indicators away from the stud locator markings.

9(currently amended). A bundle of pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 1, said stud locator markings extending substantially across the full widths of units of said pre-marked framing lumber product, said units of said framing lumber product being devoid of other marking indicators extending more than half way across the widths of the pre-marked framing lumber products.

10(currently amended). A bundle of pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 1, respective said stud locator markings having respective leading edge lines and trailing edge lines.

11(currently amended). A bundle of pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 1, a respective said stud locator marking having a leading edge line, a trailing edge line, and crossing lines extending between the leading edge line and the trailing edge line.

12-22(canceled).

23(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product operative to assist in layout and assembly of a wall wherein such wall comprises a bottom plate and a top plate, and a plurality of dimension studs extending between the bottom plate and the top plate at one or more of a limited number of pre-determined standard stud spacings along the bottom plate and the top plate, said pre-marked framing lumber product comprising:

- (a) a pre-marked ~~an~~ elongate piece of lumber suitable for use in one of the bottom plate and the top plate, said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber having a first end and a second end, and a length therebetween, a front surface (10F) and a back surface (10B), opposing sides (10L, 10R) extending between the front and back surfaces along the length thereof, and a thickness dimension (~~T~~) between the front surface (10F) and the back surface (10B), and between opposing sides thereof; and
- (b) a plurality of stud locator markings (12), reflecting application of the markings by at least one of a marking machine and a lumber-modifying process, not by a hand-held marker, the stud locator markings being spaced from each other along the length of said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber on the front

surface (10F) of said pre-marked piece of lumber, each said stud locator marking having a leading edge and a trailing edge, and defining a position for placement, on the front surface (10F), of an end of a stud dimension lumber piece having opposing front (22F) and back (22B) stud surfaces which face along the length of said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber, and a ~~pre-determined~~ thickness dimension therebetween, to be joined to said elongate piece of lumber;

the plurality of stud locator markings being spaced from each other along the length of said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber by at least one of the limited number of pre-determined standard stud spacings,

each of the plurality of stud locator markings comprising a visual marking indicator associated material deposited directly with ~~on~~ the front surface (10) of said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber,

said elongate piece of lumber being substantially devoid of any marking indicators away from the stud locator markings.

24(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 23, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 8 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

25(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 23, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 16 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

26(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 23, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 24 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

27(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 23, variations in spacing between said stud locator markings being consistently no more than 0.13 inch leading edge to leading edge.

28(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 23, including sets of 2 side-by-side stud locator marks (14, 16) ~~markings~~ arrayed along the length of said pre-marked framing lumber product.

29(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 23, a respective said stud locator marking having a leading edge line and a trailing edge line.

30(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 23, a respective said stud locator marking having a leading edge line, a trailing edge line, and crossing lines extending between the leading edge line and the trailing edge line.

31-64(cancelled).

65(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product, comprising:

- (a) a pre-marked ~~an~~ elongate piece of lumber having first and second ends and a length therebetween, a front surface (10F) and a back surface (10B), opposing sides (10L, 10R) extending between the front (10F) and back (10B) surfaces along the length thereof, and thickness dimensions between the front surface (10F) and the back surface (10B), and between opposing sides thereof; and

- (b) a plurality of stud locator markings (12), reflecting application of the markings by at least one of a marking machine and a lumber-modifying process, not by a hand-held marker, the stud locator markings being spaced from each other along the length of said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber on the front surface (10F) of said pre-marked piece of lumber, each of said stud locator markings comprising a leading edge and a trailing edge, with the trailing edge of a first said stud locator marking being disposed toward a second said stud locator marking, and with the leading edge of the second stud locator marking being disposed toward the first stud locator marking, said leading edge and said trailing edge, on a given said stud locator marking, being separated by a distance generally defined by at least a standard nominal stud thickness,

the stud locator markings being spaced from each other along the length of said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber by at least one of a limited number of pre-determined standard stud spacings,

each of the plurality of stud locator markings comprising a visual marking indicator associated material deposited directly with ~~on~~ the front surface (10F) of said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber, the stud locator markings being visually conspicuous so as to quickly catch the viewer's eye.

66(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 65, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 8 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

67(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 65, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 16 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

68(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 65, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 24 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

69(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 65, variations in spacing between said stud locator markings being consistently no more than 0.13 inch leading edge to leading edge.

70(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 65, including sets of 2 side-by-side stud locator marks (14, 16) ~~markings~~ arrayed along the length of said pre-marked framing lumber product.

71(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 65, substantially devoid of location marking indicators away from said stud locator markings.

72(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 66, substantially devoid of any location marking indicators away from the stud locator markings.

73(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 65, said stud locator markings extending substantially across the full width of said pre-marked framing lumber product, said pre-marked framing lumber product being devoid of other marking indicators extending more than half way across the width of said pre-marked the framing lumber product.

74(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 65, a respective said stud locator marking having a leading edge line and a trailing edge line.

75(currently amended) A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 65, a respective said stud locator marking having a leading edge line, a trailing edge line, and crossing lines extending between the leading edge line and to the trailing edge line.

76(currently amended) A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 65, wherein the trailing edge of a first said stud locator marking is separated from the leading edge of a second different said stud locator marking by a first distance,

whereby when a first stud is property mounted to said pre-marked framing lumber product at said first stud locator marking and a second stud is property mounted to said pre-marked framing lumber product at said second stud locator marking, said first and second studs define a second distance therebetween, and

the ~~magnitude of the~~ second distance being is greater than the ~~magnitude of the~~ first distance whereby ~~so that~~ at least a portion of each of said first and second stud locator markings remains visible while said first and second studs are mounted upon said pre-marked framing lumber product thereupon.

77(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 65, wherein a standard dimension stud can be placed on the front surface (10F) of said elongate piece of lumber, at a said stud locator marking, so that neither of said leading edge and said trailing edge is completely covered on the respective surface.

78(currently amended). A bundle of pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 1 wherein, in a respective said stud locator marking (12), the leading and trailing edges of said marking are spaced from each other by a distance, greater than such pre-determined thickness, by of up to about 0.13 inch.

79(currently amended). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 65 wherein, in a respective said stud locator marking (12), the leading and trailing edges of said marking are spaced from each other by a distance, greater than such pre-determined thickness, by of up to about 0.13 inch.

80(new). A pre-marked framing lumber product, comprising:

- (a) a pre-marked elongate piece of lumber having first and second ends and a length therebetween, a front surface (10F) and a back surface (10B), opposing sides (10L, 10R) extending between the front (10F) and back (10B) surfaces along the length thereof, and thickness dimensions between the front surface (10F) and the back surface (10B), and between opposing sides thereof; and
- (b) a plurality of stud locator markings (12), spaced from each other along the length of said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber on the front surface (10F) of said pre-marked piece of lumber, each of said stud locator markings comprising a leading edge and a trailing edge, with the trailing edge of a first said stud locator marking being disposed toward a second said stud locator marking, and with the leading edge of the second stud locator marking being disposed toward the first stud locator marking, the leading edge and the

trailing edge, on a given said stud locator marking, being separated by a distance generally defined by at least a standard nominal stud thickness,

the stud locator markings being spaced from each other along the length of said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber by as least one of a limited number of pre-determined standard stud spacings,

the stud locator markings (12) having been associated directly with said pre-marked elongate piece of lumber by a process selected from the group consisting of

- (i) using a machine printing process to print ink directly on the elongate piece of lumber, thereby to develop the markings directly on the lumber product,
- (ii) mechanically cutting such markings into the elongate piece of lumber,
- (iii) burning such markings into the elongate piece of lumber, and
- (iv) chemically treating the elongate piece of lumber so as to produce the markings.

81(new). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 80, said stud locator markings being spaced from each other by distances of one of about 8 inches, about 16 inches, and about 24 inches, leading edge-to-leading edge.

82(new). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 80, variations in spacing between said stud locator markings on said pre-marked framing lumber product and from unit of product to unit of product, being consistently no more than 0.13 inch leading edge-to-leading edge.

83(new). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 80, including sets of 2 side-by-side stud locator marks (14, 16) arranged along the length of said pre-marked framing lumber product.

84(new). A pre-marked framing lumber product as in Claim 80, said framing lumber product being substantially devoid of any location marking indicators away from the stud locator markings.